

ABSTRACT

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A method and apparatus for reducing flooding in a bridged network. The invention generally allows broadcast flooding for a predefined limited time period to permit mapping of a MAC address to a port by the bridge and disallows broadcast flooding for a second predefined time period. After the second time period expires, the process is repeated to allow the bridge to flood the networks for the predefined limited time period again. The bridge allows or disallows broadcasts flooding independently based on the destination MAC address.